1	2	3
11.	Implementation of voluntary retirement scheme.	The Voluntary Retirement Scheme has recently been approved by the Administrative Ministry. The Management is in the process of obtaining approval from the Central Board of Direct Taxes.
12.	Career Development Scheme for the employees.	As stated at S.No. 5 above.

*216. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the increase in import bill of petroleum and petroleum products due to recent Gulf war;

(b) the likely impact on the import bill on account of the devaluation of rupee during the remaining part of 1991-92; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce the import bill ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The increase in the import bill of crude oil and petroleum products imported from August, 1990 to March, 1991 due to the higher level of prices in this period as compared with the price level during April-July, 1990 was about Rs. 3,900 crores.

(b) Impact of devaluation of rupee on the oil import bill for 1991-92 will depend on the prices of rude oil and petroleum products that prevail in the international market during the year 1991-92.

(c) Efforts are being made to increase the indigenous production of crude oil during the 8th Plan alongwith increase of the refining capacity. Besides various conservation measures, efforts are also being made to increase the use of natural gas as substitute liquid petroleum products.

[*Translation*]

RELEASE OF LPG CONNECTIONS

*217. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the period upto which the Government have released LPG connections;

(b) the number of applications pending, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to clear the pending applications in view of the increasing demand ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (c) Release of LPG connections is done by the Oil Industry all over the country according to an annual programme which depends on the estimated availability of LPG during the year.

(b) The information is contained in the attached Statement.

STATEMENT

(As on 1-4-1991)

(in lakhs)

Name of the State	No. of persons on the waiting list for LPG connection
1 2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	3.20
2. Arunachal Pradesh	0.06
3. Assam	0.91
4. Bihar	1.57